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Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS)

SITREP: The Maritime Defense and Security Research Newsletter

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# SITREP: The NPS Maritime Defense and Security Research Program Newsletter ; v. 25 (December 2007)

Naval Postgraduate School (U.S.). Maritime Defense and Security Research Program

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## SEA-13: Maritime Interdiction Operations in Logistically Barren Environs - Gary Langford, Faculty Advisor

Numerous unconfirmed reports of Tough Bad Guys (TBGs) are filtering out from an extended coastal region in the world. While the local warlords seem vexed by the brazen viciousness of these marauders, the TBGs may upset an ever tenuous balance of civility that blankets one of the richest mineral deposits on Earth. To complicate matters, the World Health Organization reports that a deadly disease, endemic to the region, has recently increased its virulence and is now circulating. As local populations are displaced by TBGs, human-to-human contact is vectoring the spread of scourge towards two urban population centers. No single nation-state has sovereignty over the region, support of the warlords is problematic, and self-interests sometime divide the local littoral states. A Maritime Coalition Force is considered as a possible means to challenge the TBGs, but its composition, scope of operations, and command structure remain unresolved issues. No single state has the resources to deal effectively with this situation.

Beginning January 2008, forty-seven students from the United States (15), Singapore (30), Israel (1), and Taiwan (1) will organize and respond to tasking: Maritime Interdiction Operations in a logistically barren environment. The purpose is to immerse students in the realities of being a systems engineer to

find solutions to complex problems. The above introductory paragraph is representative of a context that may be applicable for their work. But the students will decide. They set their direction, organize, and identify and integrate other students and faculty from across campus as well as subject experts and stakeholders outside the school. The students act as lead systems engineers to conduct a major integrated project on topics relevant to the U.S. Navy and participating stakeholders. They manage to a six month delivery schedule for a final report and briefing in partial fulfillment of their requirements for a Masters Degree in Systems Engineering and Analysis. A key factor in the success of the SEA-13 students is to respond appropriately to the various limitations imposed on maritime operations to satisfy their mission objectives and avoid marooning critically-needed forces in logistically-barren environs.

The Systems Engineering Analysis (SEA) Program at The Naval Postgraduate School includes faculty advisors from systems engineering; operations research; physics; electrical engineering; electrical and computer engineering; computer science; modeling, virtual environments and simulation; mechanical engineering; the Graduate School



Gary Langford, "Time is the most important project resource".

of Business and Public Policy; and the Meyer Institute of Systems Engineering. The SEA reports are substantial and comprehensive.

Since 2001, twelve project reports have been completed and read by or briefed to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Defense Science Board, among other key policy and operational commands.

For further information, please contact Gary Langford at ([golangfo@nps.edu](mailto:golangfo@nps.edu)) or 1.831.656.1069.

## Getting Technology into the Hands of First Responders

- Wendy Walsh, Homeland Defense and Security Coordinator, [wdwalsh@nps.edu](mailto:wdwalsh@nps.edu)

If you are currently working with homeland security first responders on technologies to meet their operational needs, Tech Solutions is a Department of Homeland Security program you need to know about. It is a means for first responders to communicate gaps in emergency response that will result in field technologies to meet that need. Solutions have to have a deliverable prototype within 15 months and cost less than \$1 million per project. The catch is that academia and researchers cannot submit capability gaps- submissions **must be made by first responders**. It is critical that the first responders you work with are aware of this program and know how to utilize it. Specific guidelines and instructions for submission are available at [www.dhs.gov/TechSolutions](http://www.dhs.gov/TechSolutions)

This program is not an avenue for researchers, labs, academia or the private

sector to submit ideas. If you have a technology idea that you feel would serve the first responder or other homeland security gap and are not currently working with the first responder community, you can communicate your idea to DHS through their unsolicited proposal website [www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/opportunities/editorial\\_0617.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/opportunities/editorial_0617.shtm)

Or check out their website for solicited proposals to identify a good match for your idea at [www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/opportunities](http://www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/opportunities).

Please carefully and objectively assess your technology idea to ensure that it is innovative, unique and not already commercially available to the government. Not only will this improve your credibility but it may also reveal opportunities for collaboration and improvement with others already working the same idea.

## Future Events

### December

- **MARLO: Maritime Liaison Office Dubai Conference (Dec. 3-4):** The mission of MARLO is to facilitate the exchange of information between the U.S. Navy and the U.S. commercial shipping community in the U.S. CENTCOM's area of responsibility.

[www.marlobahrain.org/conference-agenda.htm](http://www.marlobahrain.org/conference-agenda.htm)

- **Fifth Maritime Security Symposium: Globalization - Policy and Technology; Temasek Defense Science Institute (TDSI) and Naval Postgraduate School and Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Singapore (Dec. 4-7)**

[www.sagecenter.net](http://www.sagecenter.net)

### January

- **2008 Homeland Security S&T Stakeholders Conference—West, Los Angeles (Jan. 14-17)** The theme of the 2008 conference presented by the National Defense and Industrial Association is "Putting First Responders First." [www.ndia.org](http://www.ndia.org)

To add an event to the SITREP, email: [eliz@nps.edu](mailto:eliz@nps.edu)